

332d Air Expeditionary Wing

Balad Air Base, Iraq

Red Tail Flyer

Home of the Tuskegee Airmen

The Legend Continues ...

Volume 2

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Bringing in the big guns ...



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown

Air Force and Army members work together to offload an Army M1A1 Abrams tank from a C-17 Globemaster III. The Abrams' 120 millimeter main gun, combined with the powerful 1,500 horse power turbine engine and special armor, makes the Abrams tank particularly suitable for attacking or defending against large concentrations of heavy armor forces on a highly lethal battlefield.

CSAR recover five in night search and rescue mission

By Airman 1st Class J.S. Groves

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Battling darkness, dust and unforgiving terrain, U.S. Air Force Combat Search and Rescue forces saved the lives of five Army personnel who were stranded when their CH-47 Chinook helicopter crash-landed in southeastern Iraq.

Two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters from the 64th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron here set out to find the Army CH-47 Chinook in the early morning hours of April 16 despite a dust storm that dramatically reduced visibility in the area.

"When we started the mission, there was decreased visibility coupled with near zero illumination," said 1st Lt. Bryan Creel, 64th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron lead HH-60 pilot. "We didn't know exactly where they were. We only knew there were five on board the aircraft and didn't know if any had survived the crash."

Twenty miles from the crash site the visibility began to deteriorate further, resulting from the same sand storm that

— See RESCUE, page 6

Commander's Corner

AEF 7/8 is 'Taking It To The Next Level'

By Brig. Gen. Marke Gibson
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Commander

AEF 7/8, you have proven yourselves to be true Air Force warriors, and I am proud to have the opportunity to lead you.



So much has already been accomplished in your rotation, holding firm to our motto of "Taking It To The Next Level!" You successfully completed the

beddown of Combat Search and Rescue, expanded T-Town to help meet the demand of additional Airmen to the area and you continue to move full speed ahead with preparing the base for the arrival of new aircraft.

During my absence, continue to strive to take our mission to the next level. I have had to return back to the States for a family emergency and my annual rest and recuperation, and will be gone for the entire month of May.

Give Brig. Gen. F.C. Williams the same respect and energy that you've given me. The mission is too important to do otherwise. He's much more than a substitute, he is in charge.

He's a powerful leader and warrior, and will provide strong leadership to the 332nd in my absence.

General Williams serves as the mobilization assistant to the commander, 12th Air Force, Air Combat Command in Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. A career fighter pilot, he has instructed at the USAF Fighter Weapons School as well as in the USAF Aggressor program. General Williams has commanded at the squadron, group and wing level.

While away, I will continue to keep my ear to ground to hear about the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's performance. You can be sure I will tell your success stories to everyone. Stay Safe!

Stay focused to ensure we accomplish mission Expect work load, intensity to increase

By Brig. Gen. F.C. Williams
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Commander

Baladians, it is with great pleasure that I take up the reigns and serve as wing commander for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing during Brig. Gen. Marke Gibson's absence.



I am personally pleased to once again have an opportunity to be associated

with a unit that is a descendent of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. I've had the privilege of commanding the 302nd Fighter Squadron which is one of the four squadrons that made up the 332nd Fighter Group.

I have already seen great things coming from you since my arrival. As the future transition of power draws closer in Iraq, you can expect the work load and the intensity in which we work to increase.

We need to stay focused and keep our noses to the grindstone to ensure we accomplish the mission set before us, which is to complete the beddown of migrating missions at Balad.

We'll continue to work at the tip of the spear as we move full speed ahead in supporting our Army brethren as they strive to serve the men and women on the front lines through their logistical support mission.

We should be proud of the history-making efforts we are involved in at this moment. We are a new breed of Airmen in the eyes of our nation...we are combat Airmen.

I encourage each of you to continue to take Balad's vision to the next level. I look forward to getting out and becoming acquainted with each and everyone of your missions during the course of my tour.

Remember...

Sunday is Mother's Day!

Be sure to let her know you care...



Commentary

Transition to leadership prepares you for future

By Col. Tommie G. Church

332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander

The best job in the Air Force was the first job! I heard that statement many times and uttered it myself when reminiscing with my friends after a hard day at the office. Is this really how we felt and if so, why, and if not, why did we say it? The past often seems better than it was for we tend to forget the pain and remember the joy.



But our careers in the Air Force are a series of transitions from that first job we remember with fondness to our present position. Somewhere along the line, usually earlier than later, we began our transition to leadership. And before we knew it and certainly before we planned it, we were leaders.

When we think back on that first Air Force assignment, remember how exciting everything was? The simple things like the look in the mirror of this young person in a new uniform, the excitement of watching and hearing jets flying over, the first ever military social functions, the availability of facilities placed on base just for our use, the pats on the back when we did a good job, the new friends we made, the time off to be with family and friends, the travel for duty or training – all of these memories we look back on with fondness and often yearning.

But that period of our lives didn't last for long, because early in our careers we began advancing in rank and responsibility. We were given the responsibility to train or to supervise another Airman.

We were given tasks that affected other people such as to write an operating instruction, revise a process used in our work area or develop a training program. We experienced our first transition to leadership – responsibility for someone at our job other than ourselves and responsibility for work other than our own.

The next few jobs as we grow in professional stature usually required us to learn how to work in groups and not by ourselves. This was a challenge because now we began sharing the limelight with others.

No more did we hear what a great job we did but what a great job our group did. We developed the ability to organize our thoughts, communicate them in a few carefully chosen words, have and express opinions in areas that were not al-

ways comfortable for us, accepted changes in our suggestions as others gave their opinions, developed new ideas (thinking out of the box), and gave those ideas to others to evolve into a plan agreed to by all.

We had now transitioned farther down the road to leadership – the ability to work closely with others and take pride in what the group accomplished instead of only what we personally accomplished.

Toward the end of our professional careers we found ourselves sitting at the head of the table. Yes, that day finally arrived that we thought would never come. This was the seat we thought should have been ours from the first day we entered the Air Force.

We were in charge! We were the leader! Fortunately, we were not allowed to occupy this seat the first day we arrived in that new blue uniform. We were given the time to transition to leadership. We found that sitting at the head of the table meant defining the problems our group addressed in, a simple and concise way, making the best use of the groups time, getting all to participate as equally as possible, motivating them to do their best work, getting them to agree and accept the final solution and then take the solution to the workplace and put it to use.

In other words, we found solutions to problems through those who worked for us and we gave them the well deserved credit. We patted them on the back for a job well done. We took pride in our work through the success and growth of others and not merely through what we did.

Good leaders prepare for their new role. They understand what it is like to do the job and use the tools given by those more senior. They spend time at the table and experience the pain and frustration in working with others and compromising to reach a consensus. They know the joy of receiving recognition through a thank you, a note from the boss or a formal award. They understand the fears and insecurities of responsibility for getting things done.

But they also have the confidence in you and your ability to succeed and they will make certain that you believe in yourself too.

Here at Balad Air Base good leadership is all around us and those Airmen transitioning to leadership are everywhere. Get the most out of where you are in this process. Recognize those leaders who are most effective and the techniques they use.

When it is your turn, the transition to leadership will prepare you to sit at the head of the table with confidence.

News

T-Town residents take turns with sandbag duty

By Capt. Morshe Araujo

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

In the past two weeks, Baladians have taken an active role in securing and protecting T-Town, not with armored weapons or vehicles, but with sandbags.

Tech. Sgt. James Craig, with the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning unit and NCOIC of sandbag detail, ensures that sandbags are set up properly. "I provide quality control on how the walls are supposed to look as well as the height and location of the bags," he said.

The idea for the self-help program came about days after the tragic weekend of April 9. Senior leadership decided to beef the detail when the chief's group felt it would be more beneficial if we involved everyone with the detail.

"Rather than picking a detail to sandbag 180 tents," said Sergeant Craig, "you can utilize the occupants of that tent. That way they're ensuring that their tent is sandbagged correctly."

The detail which lasts just one day, moves more than 1,500, 50-pound bags of sand closer around the tents providing tighter security around the living areas. "The extra height provides protection from mortar blasts, keeping shrapnel from penetrating the tent," said Sergeant Craig.

According to Master Sgt. Michael Hatcher, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron First Sergeant and T-Town Mayor, the fortifying of T-Town tents serve a two fold purpose; protec-



Photo by Airman 1st Class J.S. Groves

Airmen on a sandbagging detail April 27 pass a sandbag down the chain to a pallet to be brought to Tuskegee Town to help fortify the remaining tents.

tion and a peace of mind.

"(Sandbagging) is the first line protection against a ground burst mortar or rocket attack which, in the long run, sustains our overall combat capability," said Sergeant Hatcher. "Second, the psychological comfort of knowing that there is some added protection against the aforementioned attack which helps people sleep better at night and in turn allows them to get the rest they need to perform at the top of their game. I know I sleep a little better knowing the sandbags are closer to the tent."

In addition to fortifying the tents, Sergeant Craig explained the detail that actually bags the sand. The detail is broken into two shifts and the responsibility is shared by each organization on base.

Despite the long hours and the heat, Sergeant Craig said that teamwork gets the detail through the day.

"Each day the detail is given a goal to achieve. Once they've achieved that goal," he said. "They're finished. They all work together to reach that goal."

The last row of tents should be completed by May. After the living quarters are fortified, the laundry, internet, telephone and recreational tent will have sandbags placed around them as well.

The final phase for the entire project is to strategically place bunkers throughout T-Town.

"This is a great opportunity for everyone to be directly involved in protecting ourselves," said Sergeant Craig. "Basically, your protection is in your hands."



Morale calls are limited

Remember, morale calls are limited to two 15-minute phone calls a week. Airmen can use the telephones in the Telephone Tent by the Fitness Center or a DSN line at work. Length of phones at work are monitored. A complete list of DSN lines at each base can be found in the Telephone Tent. Also, there are two AT&T call centers on base. The first one is by the Shoppette on All American Way and the other is near the Post Exchange.

News



**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
Band of Liberty**

New Horizon

May 8 at 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
At the Sustainer Theater

New Horizon

The United States Air Force Band of Liberty delivers today's sounds with the *New Horizon* rock band. Stationed at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., *New Horizon* is a top quality group of professional musicians, each bringing a wide range of musical experience to the group.

New Horizon brings to the stage a blend of rock 'n' roll, country, pop, and other truly American musical idioms. Electrifying audiences with hits from rock and roll's past to the modern sounds of today's popular musical groups and artists, movin' and shakin' to the classic hits of Motown, or even driving home a country hit ... a *New Horizon* concert is a must-see experience.

They are playing May 8 at the Sustainer Theater at 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.



Photo by Master Sgt. Jon Hanson

Making the rounds ...

Air Force Director of Public Affairs, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Brig. Gen. Frederick Roggero, talks with Master Sgt. John Martin, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, about the Predator during a recent visit.

Feature

RESCUE, from page 1

brought down the Chinook. The crews used their Forward Looking Infra-Red, or FLIR, for terrain and obstacle avoidance. Both CSAR crews flew over the crash site and saw a signal on the ground.

"We were all relieved when we saw the signal. We knew someone was alive, but that's when we lost sight of the survivors, the ground and the other helicopter in less than 1/8 mile visibility. Neither the FLIR, nor the Night Vision Goggles — NVG — helped," said Lieutenant Creel.

Unable to authenticate the personnel on the ground during the first pass, and with the rapidly reduced visibility conditions, the rescue team proceeded a few miles north of the wreckage to find a ground reference so they could safely descend to a lower altitude. They knew that was the only way to make it back to the site they marked in their navigation system and rescue the downed helicopter crew.

"We came back to the signal flying low and slow. We even needed to use our infrared searchlight for illumination. Robby (Capt. Robby Wrinkle, pilot of the trailing HH-60) and I could only see about 200 meters in front of our aircraft. Robby was able to rejoin with me and we both continued to where we saw the signal," said Lieutenant Creel.

In the low-visibility environment present at the time, the rescue team decided to land for pick up instead of rappelling or using the on-board hoist.

After landing, as the dust cleared, the crew of the crashed aircraft could be seen 50 meters ahead of the lead rescue helicopter, said Lieutenant Creel.

"We quickly set up security and defensive measures and deployed to assess the medical conditions of the crashed helicopter crew," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Leigh, lead pararescueman on flight lead.

After being stranded for more than four hours, the crew of five was found in good condition with only minor injuries.

"With the downed aircraft crew on board both rescue helicopters, despite the relief we felt, we all knew it wasn't over yet," said Lieutenant Creel.



KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
Each week, the *Red Tail Flyer* staff will take a photo from around Balad AB. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject block. The person who sends in the correct answer first will receive a prize and have their name printed in the Red Tail Flyer.
Congratulations to last week's winner, Senior Airman Daniel Nichiporuk, 332nd AMXS, who correctly identified the rolled-up gym mat.

"After pickup, the rescue flight lead took off first en route to Balad," said Capt. Wrinkle.

"Along the way we tried to avoid a known hostile area where many aircraft have been prey to ground fire," Captain Wrinkle said.

While in the vicinity of this dangerous region, instruments on the second aircraft sounded an alarm as the pilot maneuvered to avoid incoming missiles launched from the ground. With the help of his crew, they skillfully maneuvered away from the threat while deploying countermeasures from the HH-60's on-board defense system.

The flight lead aircraft provided cover fire for the trailing aircraft.

"We opened fire with our .50 Caliber machine guns hoping the sound and cover fire would deter further attacks," said Staff Sgt. Patrick Ledbetter, flight lead flight engineer.

Upon continuing their quest home, both crews sustained yet another attack only four minutes later, but were able to exit the area safely.

"When the crew of the crashed helicopter was turned over to the Army medevac team, our flight down the taxi-

way turned out to be the only uneventful part of the mission," said Lieutenant Creel light-heartedly.

"The success of this mission took all 13 members of the rescue crew," said Tech. Sgt. Paul Silver, 64th ERQS aerial gunner.

"Every crew member did his job and adjusted to meet the needs and environment," added Sergeant Leigh.

"This is one of the most heroic missions our guys have flown in the War on Terrorism," said Lt. Col. Lee dePalo, 64th ERQS commander. "It was a phenomenal mission."

The pararescue crew included:

Flight lead: 1st Lt. Bryan Creel, pilot; Capt. Joseph Galletti, co-pilot; Staff Sgt. Patrick Ledbetter, flight engineer; Tech. Sgt. Thomas Ringheimer, aerial gunner; Staff Sgt. Vincent Eckert, pararescueman; and Staff Sgt. John Griffin, pararescueman.

Chalk 2: Capt. Robby Wrinkle, pilot; 1st Lt. Greg Rockwood, co-pilot; Tech. Sgt. Mike Preston, flight engineer; Staff Sgt. Matthew Leigh, pararescueman; Staff Sgt. Mike Rubio, pararescueman; and Senior Airman Ed Ha, pararescueman.

Feature

Man On The Street

“What is the best item in a package you have received, so far?”



TSgt. Andrew Baker,
332nd EAES

“The best I’ve gotten were Reeses Easter Eggs.”



TSgt. Lacey Brent and Maj. Susan Bossert,
332nd EAES

“The best thing I’ve gotten was Powerbars.”

“I received a new toothbrush.”



SrA Steven Drew,
332nd AEW, Chapel

“I haven’t received any packages and am waiting for my checkbook.”



A1C Hilary Boyd and SrA Tiffany Hawkins,
332nd ECS

“The best thing I’ve gotten was a big squirt gun.”

“My collection of CDs and DVDs.”



A1C Christopher Turner,
332nd ECES, Fire Flight

“The best package I received were pictures from my daughters ages 2 and 4.”

Around Balad

People in your neighborhood

Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hibdon

Home station: Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Unit: 332nd ESFS

Arrived in the AOR: Feb. 18

Hobbies: I enjoy reading when I am not a work.

How do I contribute to the mission? I provide security for all protection-level resources at Balad, to include transient aircraft and the residents of T-Town.

What is my favorite aspect of this deployment? I would have to say the weather.

Besides my family, what do I miss back home? I would rather be fishing in my hometown.



T-Town Chapel

Protestant service

Sunday

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Service

5:30 p.m. - Traditional Service

Monday

7 p.m. - Purpose Driven Life

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. - Choir practice

8 p.m. - Bible Study

Friday

6:30 p.m. - Choir practice

8 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

Catholic service

Sunday

Noon - Mass

Tuesday

7:30 p.m. - Mass

Friday

5:30 p.m. - Mass

LDS service

Sunday

7 p.m. - Sacrament meeting

Thursday

7:30 p.m. - Family Home Evening

All Denominations

Nightly

9 p.m. - Evening Prayer for Peace under the Stars



Father "Hill"

Public Health Note



"Public Health Note" is a column that answers frequently asks Public Health questions. To submit questions send them to Kevin.Berkel@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil or Lawrence.Noel@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil.

Foot Fungus

Q: I noticed lately that my feet, especially between my toes, are beginning to crack and itch terribly. I've been to the clinic, and they've given me some ointment to apply. Is there anything I can do to prevent this cracking and itching in the first place?

A: What you probably have is a common foot fungus ("Athlete's Foot"). This fungus occurs in feet that aren't properly dried or tend to stay moist.

Some of the best ways to prevent this condition include:

- ☐ Wear of shower shoes in the shower area (available at BX/PX if you didn't bring them.)
- ☐ Thoroughly drying your feet before putting your shoes/boots on.
- ☐ Use foot powder to help dry your feet – especially between your toes.
- ☐ Wear clean dry socks and footwear.

Sustainer Movie Schedule



Today

- ☐ Walking Tall — 3 p.m.
- ☐ Starsky & Hutch — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Eurotrip — 9 p.m.

Wednesday

- ☐ Eurotrip — 3 p.m.
- ☐ Starsky & Hutch — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Hidalgo — 9 p.m.

Friday

- ☐ Secret Window — 3 p.m.
- ☐ Havanna Nights — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Man On Fire — 9 p.m.

Tuesday

- ☐ Agent Cody Banks 2 — 3 p.m.
- ☐ Hidalgo — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Walking Tall — 9 p.m.

Thursday

- ☐ Hidalgo — 3 p.m.
- ☐ Walking Tall — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Starsky & Hutch — 9 p.m.

Sunday

- ☐ Man On Fire — 3 p.m.
- ☐ Secret Window — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Havanna Nights — 9 p.m.

Breakfast: 6 to 9 a.m.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

DFAC 2 LUNCH & DINNER MENU

Dinner: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Midnight: 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Lunch Meatballs Spiced chicken Glazed carrots	Lunch Turkey nuggets Braised beef Broccoli	Lunch BBQ chicken BBQ ribs Corn on the cob	Lunch Fried chicken Pot Roast Calico corn	Lunch Pork roast Chili mac Fried cabbage	Lunch Pepper steak Fried fish Green beans	Lunch Ribs Pot roast Waxed beans
Dinner Pepper steak Pork chops Roast turkey Seasoned peas	Dinner Fried fish Grilled steak Breaded shrimp Corn on the cob	Dinner Salisbury steak Baked chicken Baked ham Seasoned carrots	Dinner Fried steak Baked fish Lasagna Seasoned greens	Dinner Cornish hens Meat loaf Turkey pot pies Herbed broccoli	Dinner Roast beef Fried chicken Spaghetti Seasoned corn	Dinner Baked fish Braised beef Pork chops Broccoli

The Red Tail Flyer

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